

PRESIDENT: Okay, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Clerk and members of the Legislature, although we have reached the posterior portions of the day, we still must be alert and vigilant where the welfare of the public is concerned. This is a tax, a secret tax, a hidden tax, a deceptive tax, a sleight of hand tax, one which is to be imposed on the public without the public being aware of it, without it being called a tax, and I have opposed bills of this kind, not just where they are trying to raise the cost for this information, but when they wanted to tack additional amounts on obtaining a driver's license, I had opposed it. And I do think that the Legislature, being the taxing authority for this state, should do it openly and directly. If more taxes are needed, they should be raised. The Governor cannot get out of her campaign promise not to raise taxes by doing it in an underhanded fashion such as this, and I think this is sneaky. I think it is underhanded, and, in view of all of the talk and posturing about not raising taxes, it borders on the unethical. We are giving away millions of dollars and stealing peanuts from the public, but it is being done in a way that I think is totally inappropriate. It does not take anywhere near the amount that is being charged to produce these little pieces of paper with the bits of information that they contain. And, Senator Beyer, I did say that the public has to pay these amounts, not just businesses, but I was saying that out of concern for the public, they would never lower the cost of this, but because of the insurance industry coming in and saying they did not want to pay \$2, it was agreed to lower it to \$1.75, but that still is an increase over the \$1. I think it is totally unfair. This information is a service that the state ought to provide for the citizens, and, even at \$1, the state is making more money than what it costs to provide it. I think it is unjust. I think it is wrong, and I think the Governor ought to be ashamed of herself for bringing a piece of trite such as this to the Legislature after all of that self-righteous posturing about no tax increase, and Senator Lamb having the gall to bring this bill surprises me. There are a number of this floor who would speak against openly and forthrightly raising the taxes, but give the opportunity to do it in a low crawl through the weeds where the public cannot perceive what is happening, and there are many who will jump on that odious bandwagon. It ought not to be done, and I hope that there will be enough votes to kill this bill. There has been no justification for the bill itself being offered. So I am going to give Senator Lamb an